

helped tremendously. I wish I could tell you that they were 100% effective, but they aren't.

Most of my clients are not full time cattlemen. Therefore, they are usually short on equipment, man power, cattle sense and lack the necessary budget to meet the needs of their herd. I have found several uses for PVC pipe in eastern Kentucky. For example, a 3-4 inch PVC pipe cut in half makes a great cast for a 400 lb bull calf that has fallen off a high wall. A high wall is a rock ledge between strips of mined coal. The family kept the bull calf in their basement until the break had healed properly. I have also frequently used a one and a half inch pipe for an emergency speculum. I have used a PVC pole syringe for an emergency, especially when restraints were a problem, that I made from a half inch PVC pipe inside of three quarter inch pipe with an adapter on the end to insert the syringe. These are large enough to hold a 10cc syringe trimmed down. For the newer tubes of calcium magnesium and high energy gel, I use a short piece of PVC pipe or a tobacco stick, which is more economical for some cattle owners in eastern Kentucky, especially those who have only one cow. If you get in a pinch, you can use PVC pipe to make a quick Balling gun.

Snapper clothes pins were recommended for quick

hemostats on milk veins at the first AABP meeting I attended a few years back, but I found that they may be useful for several different things. For example, cheap disposable hemostats on that ear that the calf pulled a tag out of: Or the neighbor's dog bite on the ear or the scrotum of a bull calf that jumped when you didn't get the cord pulled as well as you'd like. And you know the owner will not check them like they should. The clothes pin will fall off shortly, especially if they are running over a 200 acre strip job.

The inner tube sleeve guard, as I learned in my internship in Wisconsin, has saved my sleeves a few times. In the outer edge of the tube cut a hole to fit snugly over your arm, then cut around that 3-4 inches to cover your shoulder. Hold your sleeve on. If you lose it, stop at the garage and make another.

Don't forget the hat! I wore it to protect my hair, but it has also protected my head, especially when you get slung back against the barn wall.

My tips may not be original, but they are things that help me. I enjoy my bovine practice. I hope there will be something that will come in handy when you get back home.

Thank you for your time.

A Cow/Calf Herd Management Program

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The three requirements for a successful cow-calf health and production program are:

1. A progressive livestock producer
2. An enthusiastic, competent veterinarian
3. An animal health and production data and information system.

The most obvious candidate for such a program is a producer who asks for it; interest among all producers can be raised by proper marketing techniques.

Since the development of applicable computer programs we have started to offer Herd Management Programs to our producers but one has to realize that different types of farms require different levels of service.

We started out with the following program in 1991.

Small Herd < 300 cows

1. FOUR STRATEGIC FARM VISITS
PREBREEDING
POST-WEANING
PRE-CALVING
CALVING
2. PREGNANCY EVALUATION COWS & HEIFERS
3. BSE HERD BULLS
4. ADVICE HEALTH & BREEDING PROGRAMS
5. COWCHIP\$ TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT
6. COWBYTES TO EVALUATE BEEF NUTRITION
7. VETERINARY SUPPLIES AT REDUCED PRICE
8. CHARGE PER BREEDING UNIT PER YEAR
PREGNANT COWS
PREGNANT HEIFERS
HERD BREEDING BULLS

COWCHIP\$ is a BEEF HERD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM developed by John Basarab, Ph.D., Beef

Management Specialist, Alberta Agriculture, Edmonton, Alberta. This program was developed to take a systematic and integrated approach to identifying opportunities for profit in commercial cow-calf herds. It also helps investigating production, marketing and financial alternatives and consists of five modules: Records, Troubleshooting, Cow Lifetime Productivity, Herd Nutrition (Cowbytes) and Adding Value to the Calf.

This program works well for smaller herds, but for producers with larger herds it is not attractive. Also purebred operations need more intensive guidance and subsequently we developed the following program:

Large Herd > 300 cows or Purebred Operation

1. CONSULTATION SERVICES
VETERINARIAN AND NUTRITIONIST
STRATEGICALLY PLANNED FARM VISITS
ADVICE ON DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENTS
ADVICE ON MANAGEMENT
AUTOPSY ALL DEAD ANIMALS
MONTHLY FEE
2. OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
BULL BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAMINATION
PALPATION FOR CYCLICITY AND PREGNANCY
CHARGE PER ANIMAL

3. VETERINARY SUPPLIES

COST + 5% (OR LESS) HANDLING FEE

4. INDIVIDUAL ANIMAL CARE AND EMERGENCIES REGULAR SERVICE CHARGE

In cooperation with our legal advisors we developed a written contract that is signed by both parties at the start of the program. We also found that offering monthly payments helps sell programs like these.

Currently we have 12 producers with approximately 3000 cows participating in our Herd Management Programs. Growth in this area has been slow, but we feel that by showing that these programs are desirable and economically justifiable, many more producers will participate in the years to come.

References

Radostits, O.M., Leslie, K.E., Fetrow, J.: Herd Health, Food Animal Production Medicine, Second Edition, W.B. Saunders Company, 1994. Cowchip\$, A Beef Herd Management Program; Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Home Study Program, 2nd Floor, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

Bovilene-Fenprostolene for Treatment of Retained Placenta-Metritis Complex in Early Postpartum Cows

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For many years veterinarians have searched for an effective way to treat retained placentas and postpartum metritis. Many remedies have been used and many have gone by the wayside. In the 70's the prevailing approach was the volume uterine treatment (VUT) infusion of various formulations. It replaced the insertion of boluses in the uterus approach used prior to VUT. In the 1980's most practitioners finally settled on tetracycline in the uterus as the drug of choice after Olsen's work that was presented at the Oklahoma City AABP in 1983.

In the 1990's drug residue avoidance mania rose to such a crescendo that veterinarians and livestock producers were scrambling for treatment regimens that

did not require long drug withdrawal times and yet were still safe and effective.

After reviewing information presented at a dairy reproduction seminar at the '92 AABP meeting and talking to several other veterinarians there, I ceased routine use of oxytet in the treatment of retained placenta-metritis in October 1992. Oxytet was replaced with a 2 injection series of Bovilene (fenprostolene) at 14 day intervals started as soon as retained placenta or metritis was noticed. Antibiotic use was limited to those cows that were off-feed, looked bad, and were running a fever. In those cases systemic antibiotics and/or intra-uterine oxytetracycline, and supportive therapy were recommended. Foul smelling discharge was not in itself